

1 Kings 15

Fear God

1 Kings

1. David/Solomon's Kingdom fading fast

God gave Solomon a Promise...Promise contingent on his obedience

If you obey Me...**then I** will give you an everlasting Kingdom

If you don't obey Me...**then** you will lose it!

2. Solomon disobeys the Lord taking pagan wives ends up worshiping pagan Gods
3. Solomon dies...son Rehoboam takes over
4. Rehoboam listens to bad advice from the trend-setters: **Treat the people harshly**
5. People rebel and an energetic leader arises to challenge Rehoboam...**Jeroboam**
6. **Kingdom splits:**
 - Some follow Jeroboam to the north [Israel]
 - Some stay with Rehoboam in south [Judah]

Jeroboam King of Israel

1. Creates an alternative religion calling golden calves YHWH
1. Reigns 22 years in the north
2. Son Nadab reigns 2 years
3. Meantime...

I. Abijam Reigns in Judah: Bad King

1 In the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam the son of Nebat, **Abijam** became king over Judah. 2 He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maachah the granddaughter of Abishalom. 3 And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him...

Timeline:

1. 18th year of Jeroboam's reign in Northern Kingdom [Israel]
2. Rehoboam dies with a poor legacy...

2 Chronicles 12:13...he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the Lord had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put His name there. His mother's name was Naamah, an Ammonitess. 14 And he did evil, because **he did not prepare his heart to seek the Lord.**

Did not prepare his heart to seek the Lord?

- **Never left his** loser friends; dragging him down giving bad advice
- **Never gleaned** from grandfather David: David and Jonathan built up each other
- **Never learned** from father Rehoboam's mistakes: Learn from everyone...
 1. What to do
 2. What not to do
- **Never addressed** bad habits as teenager to prepare him to be a godly adult
- **Never nurtured** good habits of seeking God, praying, meditating, Word

Never prepared his heart to seek the Lord while he was young
Daniel prepared his heart to seek the Lord when he was young

Daniel 6:10 [Read] [Law signed: Only pray to King of Babylon] [So Daniel...] went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. [or "because" it was his custom/habit]

Daniel prepared his heart for "whatever" God had for him. He was ready.

- Sought God in Babylon because he was used to seeking God in Israel
- Jesus custom was to go to Mt. of Olives to pray at night...

Luke 21:37 ...in the daytime [Jesus] was teaching in the temple, but at night He went out and stayed on the mountain called Olivet.

- Didn't start the night before the cross...

Luke 22:39 [Jesus]... went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed

Rehoboam's Legacy: Evil King

Bought his own ticket...Did not prepare his heart to seek the Lord?

- **NOTE:** Always time to change as long as we have breath. Prepare to seek Lord

Rehoboam's son Abijam becomes king in Southern Kingdom [Judah]

- Reigned only 3 years
- **Abijam "walked in sins" of father Rehoboam**, Solomon's son; i.e. **Idolatry**
 1. Did evil in sight of Lord
 2. Provoked God
 3. Sinned more than Solomon
 4. Built/Worshiped at High places, sacred pillars, sodomites [Temple prostitutes]

3b... [Abijam's] his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David.

- Unfaithful unlike father [Grandfather David] **Never an idolater**

4 Nevertheless for David's sake the Lord his God gave him a **lamp in Jerusalem**, by setting up his son after him and by establishing Jerusalem; **5** because David did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

- **David: Always for David...a Man after God's own heart**

1. Did what was right in the eyes of Lord...not his own
2. Did not turn aside from what God told him to do

Proverbs 4:27 Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.

Hebrews 12:1... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking [fixing our eyes on] unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...

- David did all the Lord asked...

...except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

- David took another man's wife, had man killed and sat on it for year

Psalm 51:3 ...my sin is always before me. 4 Against You, You only, have I sinned

Psalm 32:3 When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah 5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"

- **So...what? So...don't sin.** And if you have confess immediately.

God's heavenly forgiveness *does not* eliminate heavy earthly consequences

1. David's sin would be recorded in the annals of history
2. David's sin would affect many. Cause Israel's enemies to blaspheme God...
3. David and Bathsheba's first son would die...

2 Samuel 2:13 [David confesses] "**I have sinned against the Lord.**" And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has **put away your sin**; you shall not die. 14 However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die."

- David knew in God's eyes his sin was completely forgiven
- David waited for Glory where his sin would never be mentioned again...

Psalm 103:11 [David] ...as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

- God would always leave one in David's line
- Light in Jerusalem to lead people to the Messiah

**From here we see mostly evil kings in David's line
Still, God will bring forth the Messiah from the line of David as He promised**

Luke 1:32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the **throne of His father David.**

- **Millennial Kingdom:** David will be Prince under King Jesus in Israel

6 And there was war between Rehoboam [house; i.e. Abijah] and Jeroboam all the days of his life.

Israel now engulfed in Civil War: North against South

2. WWII	405,399
3. Korea	36,516
4. Vietnam	58,209
5. Gulf	382
6. American Civil War	April 12 th 1861 – May 13 th 1865

620,000 Dead **412,175** Wounded

Israel now in Civil War: North against South. Brother against brother. Horror

7 Now the rest of the acts of Abijam, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? And there was war between Abijam and Jeroboam.

- **Abijam:** Called Abijah in 2 Chronicles parallel
 1. Abijam [south] challenged Jeroboam [north]
 2. Jeroboam sets an ambush and seemed to have victory over Abijam
 3. Abijam pleads with the Lord and gains victory for Southern Kingdom Judah

2 Chronicles 13:18...and the children of Judah prevailed, because they relied on the Lord God of their fathers.

- Even though King was evil, army of Judah had *some faith* in true God
- **More info on Abijam...**

2 Chronicles 13:20 So Jeroboam did not recover strength again in the days of Abijah; and the Lord struck him, and he died. 21 But Abijah grew mighty, married fourteen wives, and begot twenty-two sons and sixteen daughters.

8 So Abijam rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Asa his son reigned in his place.

- Abijam rested? Body rested his soul to hades awaiting judgment. Evil King
- **Kings of Judah:** Saul, David, Solomon, Rehoboam, Abijam, and now Asa

SUMMARY Abijam Reigns in Judah

II. Good Kings of Judah: Asa and son Jehoshaphat

9 In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, **Asa became king over Judah.** 10 And he reigned forty-one years in Jerusalem. His grandmother's name was Maachah the granddaughter of Abishalom. 11 **Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord,** as did his father David.

- **Asa:** First Good King along with his son Jehoshaphat

2 Chronicles 14:2 Asa did what was *good and right* in the eyes of the Lord his God,

What did Asa he do that was "good and right in the eyes of the Lord"?

12 And he banished the perverted persons from the land, and removed all

the idols that his fathers had made. 13 Also he removed Maachah his grandmother from being queen mother, because she had made an obscene image of Asherah. And Asa cut down her obscene image and burned it by the Brook Kidron.

- **Right in the eyes of the Lord:** Intolerance; i.e. Not tolerating evil
 1. Banished sodomites
 2. Removed wicked influences; e.g. his idolatrous mother
 3. Took her wicked stuff and burned it

14 But the high places were not removed.

- **Compromise:** Not going the entire distance. Leaving remnant of evil
- **Flesh:** Utterly destroy or will rise up again

14b...Nevertheless Asa's heart was **loyal** to the Lord all his days. 15 He also brought into the house of the Lord the things which his father had dedicated, and the things which he himself had dedicated: silver and gold and utensils.

- **Loyal:** Brought back the things of God dedicated by father; lit. grandfather
- **Loyal:** Lit. Perfect/complete towards the Lord ALL HIS DAYS. **How?**

Trusting in the One who keeps us for delivery

Jude 1:1 To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and **preserved** in Jesus Christ...**24** Now to Him who is **able to keep you from stumbling**, And to **present you faultless** Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

Asa was loyal to the Lord all his days

16 Now there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.

- **Baasha introduced: New king of Israel in North. Civil War continues**
- No war during Solomon/Only war after Solomon

Solomon..."It was a marriage for just political purposes"

No! It was compromise and began a Downward Spiral that's now ripping people to shreds

As is usual with people on an incline, some who got on "the down grade" went further than they intended, showing that it is *easier to get on than to get off* [with regard to sin], and that where there is no brake it is very difficult to stop... **Be ye warned**, then, against falling into the [ease] of compromise, for compromise is nothing better than varnished rebellion against God, a mockery of his claims, and an insult to his judgment. [Spurgeon]

Compromise leads to division/ warring between individuals, within churches, among nations

17 And Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

- **Lays siege to Judah**

1. No food water
2. Garbage heaps
3. Sewage problems
4. Cannibalism

Asa King of Judah Freaks Out...

18 Then Asa took all the silver and gold that was left in the treasuries of the house of the Lord and the treasuries of the king's house, and delivered them into the hand of his servants. And King Asa sent them to Ben-Hadad the son of Tabrimmon, the son of Hezion, king of Syria, who dwelt in Damascus, saying, 19 "Let there be a treaty between you and me, as there was between my father and your father. See, I have sent you a present of silver and gold.

- Sends bribe [things dedicated to God?] to pagan King of Syria to come help

19b...Come and break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel, so that he will withdraw from me."

- King of Syria currently had treaty with Baasha who was laying siege

20 So Ben-Hadad heeded King Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel. He attacked Ijon, Dan, Abel Beth Maachah, and all Chinneroth, with all the land of Naphtali. 21 Now it happened, when Baasha heard it, that he stopped building Ramah, and remained in Tirzah.

- Baasha gone south to attack Judah leaving northern cities unprotected
- King of Syria agrees and attacks Baasha's abandoned cities in north
- Baasha stops building the siege

22 Then King Asa made a proclamation throughout all Judah; none was exempted. And they took away the stones and timber of Ramah, which Baasha had used for building; and with them King Asa built Geba of Benjamin, and Mizpah.

- **Mandate in Judah:** Every person take siege materials and build city

23 The rest of all the acts of Asa, all his might, all that he did, and the cities which he built, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? But in the time of his old age he was diseased in his feet.

- Rebuked for not trusting Lord...

2 Chronicles 16:7 [Read] And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said to him: "Because you have relied on the king of Syria, and have not relied on the Lord your God, therefore the army of the king of Syria has escaped from your hand. 8 Were the Ethiopians and the Lubim not a huge army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet, because you relied on the Lord, He delivered them into your hand.

9 For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is **loyal to Him**.

In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars." 10 Then **Asa was angry with the seer**, and put him in prison, for he was enraged at him because of this. And Asa oppressed some of the people at that time. 11 Note that the acts of Asa, first and last, are indeed written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. 12 And in the thirty-ninth year of his reign, **Asa became diseased in his feet**, and his malady was severe; yet in his disease **he did not seek the Lord**, but the physicians. 13 So Asa rested with his fathers; he died in the forty-first year of his reign. 14 They buried him in his own tomb, which he had made for himself in the City of David; and they laid him in the bed which was filled with spices and various ingredients prepared in a mixture of ointments. They made a very great burning for him.

How do we reconcile this with 14b

...Nevertheless Asa's heart was **loyal** to the Lord all his days?

Closer Look before foot disease...

What else did Asa he do that was "good and right in the eyes of the Lord"?

2 Chronicles 15:9 [Read] **15** Now the **Spirit of God** came upon Azariah the son of Oded. **2** And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The Lord *is* with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you. **3** For a long time Israel *has been* without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without law; **4** but when in their trouble they turned to the Lord God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found by them. **5** And in those times *there was* no peace to the one who went out, nor to the one who came in, but great turmoil *wason* all the inhabitants of the lands. **6** So nation was destroyed by nation, and city by city, for God troubled them with every adversity. **7** But you, be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded!"

8 And when Asa heard these words and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, **he took courage**, and removed the abominable idols from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities which he had taken in the mountains of Ephraim; and he restored the altar of the Lord that *was* before the vestibule of the Lord. **9** Then he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and those who dwelt with them from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon, for they came over to him in great numbers from Israel when they saw that the Lord his God was with him.

10 So they gathered together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa. **11** And they offered to the Lord at that time seven hundred bulls and seven thousand sheep from the spoil they had brought. **12** Then they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul; **13** and whoever would not seek the Lord God of Israel was to be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman. **14** Then they took an oath before the Lord with a loud voice, with shouting and trumpets and rams' horns. **15** And all Judah rejoiced at the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and sought Him with all their soul; and He was found by them, and the Lord gave them rest all around.

Maybe he believed he deserved more?

Luke 17:7 And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'? 8 But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'? 9 Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not.[c] 10 So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'"

- Tired of doing well?

Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

2 Thessalonians 3:13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.

Reconciliation: Asa had a hissy fit at end of his life that did not negate his overall loyalty.

NOTE: Don't try this at home

- **Asa:** First good king of Judah after David
- Next, Jehoshaphat King of Judah...

24 So Asa rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David his father. **Then Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place.**

- **Jehoshaphat:** Good King of Judah
- **Details in 2nd Chronicles...**

2 Chronicles 17:1 [Read] Then Jehoshaphat [Asa's] son reigned in his place, and strengthened himself against Israel.

- **Civil war continues between Northern/Southern Kingdoms...**

[Continue] 2 And [Jehoshaphat] placed troops in all the fortified cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim which Asa his father had taken. 3 **Now the Lord was with Jehoshaphat**, because he walked in the former ways of his father David; he **did not seek the Baals**, 4 but **sought the God of his father**, and walked in His commandments and not according to the acts of Israel. 5 Therefore the Lord **established the kingdom in his hand**; and all Judah gave presents to Jehoshaphat, and **he had riches and honor in abundance**. 6 And his **heart took delight in the ways of the Lord**; moreover he **removed the high places and wooden images from Judah**.

Jehoshaphat takes advantage of this time and his position to seek the Lord

- **One shot to do what is right...to make a difference**

Ephesians 5:15 ... walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 **redeeming the time**, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

- Redeem the time:
- **80 years Life is filled with...**

1. 2,522,880,000 Seconds
2. 42,075,936 Minutes

- | | | |
|----|-----------|--------|
| 3. | 701.265.6 | Hours |
| 4. | 29, 219.4 | Days |
| 5. | 4,174.2 | Weeks |
| 6. | 960 | Months |

Each of us was born for such a time as this...with amount of time whatever it may be
What are we going to do with it?

- **Jehoshaphat:**

1. **Prepared his people:** Set garrisons and troops; walked circumspect
2. Jehoshaphat understood the danger of the times and acted accordingly

1 Chronicles 12:32 [The...] the sons of Issachar...had **understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do** [Prepared for whatever was to come; how?]

3. **Sought the God of his father:** 2nd Generation superstar
4. **Removed high places and idols:** In our homes?
5. **Therefore:** His kingdom was established

- Received presents from the people
- Riches and honor in abundance

...his heart took delight in the ways of the Lord

Psalms 37:4 [David] Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Each of us was born for such a time as this...What are we going to do with it?
 This period of no persecution...time to deal with abortion

- **More on Jehoshaphat I Kings 22**...Including mistakes

SUMMARY Good Kings of Judah: Asa and Jehoshaphat

III. Nadab and Flashback on Baasha in Israel: Bad Kings

- **Attention now on northern kingdom...**

25 Now **Nadab the son of Jeroboam** became king over **Israel** in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years. 26 And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin.

- **Jeroboam's son Nadab:**
 1. **Nadab:** Lit means "willing"
 2. Continues father's idolatry in Northern Kingdom
 3. With his father drove out true priests

1 Chronicles 11:14 ... Jeroboam and his sons...rejected them from serving as priests to the Lord.

27 Then Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him. And **Baasha killed** him at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines, while Nadab and all Israel laid siege to Gibbethon. 28 Baasha killed him in the third year of Asa king of Judah, and **reigned in his place.**

- **This is a Flashback:** How Baasha from vv 16-19 became King of Israel
 1. **Baasha son of Ahijah:** Different Ahijah than the prophet of Ch. 14
 2. Kills Jeroboam's son Nadab and takes the throne
- **NOTE:** Northern Kings were not in the line of David.

Take throne at times with violence...rather than inheritance

- Baasha **doesn't stop with Nadab...**

29 And it was so, when [Baasha] became king, *that* he **killed all the house of Jeroboam**. He did not leave to Jeroboam **anyone that breathed**, until he had destroyed him, according to the word of the Lord which He had spoken by His servant Ahijah the Shilonite, ³⁰ **because of the sins of Jeroboam**, which he had sinned and by which he had made Israel sin, because of his provocation with which he had provoked the Lord God of Israel to anger.

- 300 years later God's Word in 1 Kings 13 comes to pass
 1. **Near Prophecy:** Altar will split
 2. **Fare Prophecy:** Not a man of your line will be left
- Baasha killed anyone in Jeroboam's family that breathed
- **NOTE:** Until he had destroyed him? Jeroboam who is already dead.

Does God hate? The LORD hates wickedness

Psalms 11:5 The Lord tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates. 6 Upon the wicked He will rain coals; Fire and brimstone and a burning wind Shall be the portion of their cup.

- Jeroboam "provoked the Lord to anger"

Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.

- Provoking the Lord to anger...

Comedian Sarah Silverman said during a telethon to support abortions that a pro-life conscience law "**would make her want to eat an aborted fetus.**" Silverman made the comment during a game of "abortion charades" – part of a "telethon" titled Life Is a Living Nightmare: A Telethon to Fix It, hosted by the Lady Parts Justice League.

- Took 300 years for God to execute judgment on Jeroboam...just saying

31 Now the rest of the acts of Nadab, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? 32 And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days. 33 In the third year of Asa king of Judah, Baasha the **son of Ahijah** became king over all Israel in Tirzah, and reigned **twenty-four years**. 34 He did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin.

- Baasha reigns in Israel 24 Years

Did evil; continued in ways of Jeroboam who God just judged using...Baasha

Assyria is suiting up! Ready to take them away with hooks in jaw!